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12-20-01

PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 041514-5125

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
Ikuya KIKUCHI et al.)
Application No.: 09/878,180) Group Art Unit: 2651
Filed: June 12, 2001) Examiner: Unassigned
For: OBJECTIVE LENS, OPTICAL PICKUP)
DEVICE AND OPTICAL)
RECORDING/REPRODUCING APPARATUS)

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

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DEC 04 2001
Technology Center 2600

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the document listed on the attached PTO Form 1449.

To the best of the undersigned's knowledge, this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application, and no fees are believed to be necessary.

A copy of the listed document is attached. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed document and evidence that consideration by making appropriate notations on the attached PTO Form 1449.

The listed document is not written in the English language. As for relevance, Applicants respectfully submit herewith an English-language abstract, and point out that the listed document is referenced at page 2 of the instant specification.

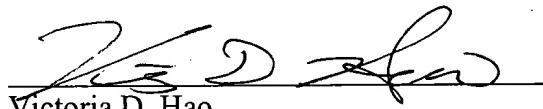
This submission does not represent that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that the listed document is material or constitute "Prior Art." If it should be determined that the listed document does not constitute "Prior Art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such document. Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed document, should the document be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310.

Respectfully submitted,

MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP

By:



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Dated: November 27, 2001

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